



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

ATTN: OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS

Kaoru SAKAKIBARA et al.

Notice of Allowance Mailed
03/09/2004 - Batch/Confirmation No. 6864

Application No.: 10/633,685

Group Art Unit: 3765

Filed: August 5, 2003

Examiner: P. Nerbun

Docket No.: 116778

For: SEWING APPARATUS WITH NEEDLE BAR POSITION CHANGING
CONTROL

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Following are Applicants comments in reply to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the March 9, 2004 Notice of Allowance.

In paragraph 3, page 2 of the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowing claim 1 and its dependent claims are that the claims specifically require a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that a needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of the needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

In paragraph 4, page 2 of the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowing claim 5 are that claim 5 requires a needle bar position changing control

unit controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that in a case where the needle bar position changing unit has been operated, the needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of a needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

However, the reasons for allowance fail to include reasons for allowance of claim 4. Applicants note that claim 4 also includes the limitation recited above with respect to claim 1. For clarification, Applicants note that claim 4 is also allowable at least because nowhere do the references of record disclose a needle bar position changing control program for a sewing apparatus including controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that a needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of the needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

Further, claim 4 is also allowable at least because nowhere do the references of record disclose a needle bar position changing control program for a sewing apparatus including a needle bar position changing control program for a sewing apparatus including controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that in a case where the needle bar position changing unit has been operated, the needle bar is changed from an upper stop position to a lower stop position or from the lower stop position to the upper stop position according to a position of the needle bar at the time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is attached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

• The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below if further comment is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 2, 2004

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